

**From:** [Scott Jones](mailto:Scott_Jones)  
**To:** [Walters, Donn](mailto:Walters_Donn)  
**Cc:** [Miller, Garyg](mailto:Miller_Garyg); [Sanchez, Carlos](mailto:Sanchez_Carlos); [McCorkhill, Michael](mailto:McCorkhill_Michael); [Gray, David](mailto:Gray_David); [Coleman, Sam](mailto:Coleman_Sam); [Jennifer Ronk](mailto:Jennifer_Ronk); [Bob Stokes](mailto:Bob_Stokes)  
**Subject:** Followup... RE: Concerns & recommendations - May 25 EPA SJRWP open house  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 04, 2016 12:28:35 PM  
**Attachments:** [removed.txt](#)

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Hello Donn-

I went back and realize that you did indicate in your invitation to me to exhibit that this would be an informal open house. So, I was wrong below in stating that you did not indicate that format. For that, I apologize to you and others on the EPA team. Just going too many directions at once and did not read your message as I should have.

That said, GBF will not exhibit at this type of 4-hour open house for the reasons I stated in prior emails.

I hope you at EPA will change your minds and include formal presentations on the important updates that the community deserves to hear, as well as a formal, structured Q&A so everyone can get answers in an efficient way. If you do that, then GBF would be happy to be an exhibitor. We are at a time when folks need formal updates on so many critical activities that EPA and the PRPs are undertaking: site inspections, sampling, Corps 3<sup>rd</sup> party review results, FS and cleanup alternatives updates (hopefully).

If the case is that you do not have any updates to give, then I honestly don't see the point of the event. If, on the other hand, you are going to this format because of negative experiences at past negative meetings, I think that going to zero presentations and zero Q&A is throwing out the baby with the bath water...

If folks who want to give comments that are pro-containment feel intimidated by the crowd, then provide comment cards/forms for them to fill out in private. I see those at so many public meetings I attend.

If you feel that EPA is just attacked at the meetings and it is a free-for-all, then I recommend you hire a professional facilitator asap to help plan the agenda, set the ground rules, make sure the proper equipment is available (i.e. microphones that can be held by helpers to prevent folks from grandstanding and to cut them off if they speak inappropriately), and give the facilitator the power to lead and take charge at the event. I have seen that done at public meetings for many controversial topics.

Thanks-  
Scott

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Donn-

Sorry. In this case, count GBF out as an exhibitor at this particular meeting. If I had known this in the first place, I never would have said yes to exhibiting.

I will be at the meeting and we will certainly continue to forward any meeting messages for you and post information/documents that you would like on our GBF SJRWP webpage.

Scott

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*Protecting the natural resources of Galveston Bay since 1987*

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**From:** Walters, Donn [<mailto:walters.donn@epa.gov>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 03, 2016 2:48 PM  
**To:** [sjones@galvbay.org](mailto:sjones@galvbay.org)  
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**Subject:** RE: Concerns & recommendations - May 25 EPA SJRWP open house

Scott, we conduct these types of meetings frequently around the region. We provide a 4-hr timeframe for the public to come by at their convenience. Could be parents, folks getting off work, etc.

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**From:** Scott Jones [<mailto:sjones@galvbay.org>]  
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**To:** Walters, Donn <[walters.donn@epa.gov](mailto:walters.donn@epa.gov)>  
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**Subject:** RE: Concerns & recommendations - May 25 EPA SJRWP open house

Hello Again Donn-

Sorry for multiple emails, but I have to share my thoughts on the May 25<sup>th</sup> event.

I, for one, do not see much utility in a 4-hour open house. And I know other CAC members feel the same way. I have asked them to share their feelings on the matter with you all at EPA.

As I stated in my original email, I think the community members will be frustrated by the open house format with no site cleanup update presentations and no structured Q&A. I certainly do not want to answer the same questions from the community over and over, where there will be roaming groups and individuals coming to my table and they won't be able to hear my answers with all the background noise. It gets loud in the community center and I will become hoarse and frustrated myself in no time.

When you asked me to exhibit, I had no idea that there would be no presentations or structured Q&A. If EPA intends to keep the open house format with no presentations and structured Q&A, then GBF will have to reverse its offer to exhibit. Please let me know.

Last, I would be interested to know which CAC members requested the 4-hour open house arrangement with no presentations and Q&A.

Thanks-  
Scott

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**Sent:** Tuesday, May 03, 2016 12:33 PM  
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**Subject:** RE: Concerns & recommendations - May 25 EPA SJRWP open house

Scott, thank you for your comments and concerns. We very much appreciate the support and input that the GBF has provided with the site's outreach. And, as you know we have provided a number... of community meetings with presentations on the site's remediation. However other community members and partner agencies have requested a site meeting in this format to provide information and hear from those that don't have the opportunity to speak in those large facilitated meetings to date. You responded last week that GBF would host an information display for this longer meeting format. Other agencies and organizations have also expressed an interest in participating in this type informal meeting. Again, thanks for your input.

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**From:** Scott Jones [<mailto:sjones@galvbay.org>]  
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**To:** Walters, Donn <[walters.donn@epa.gov](mailto:walters.donn@epa.gov)>; Miller, Gary <[Miller.Gary@epa.gov](mailto:Miller.Gary@epa.gov)>; Sanchez, Carlos <[sanchez.carlos@epa.gov](mailto:sanchez.carlos@epa.gov)>; Coleman, Sam <[Coleman.Sam@epa.gov](mailto:Coleman.Sam@epa.gov)>; Leos, Valmichael <[Leos.Valmichael@epa.gov](mailto:Leos.Valmichael@epa.gov)>  
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**Subject:** Concerns & recommendations - May 25 EPA SJRWP open house  
**Importance:** High

Dear Donn, Gary, Carlos, Sam and Valmichael-

GBF appreciates that the EPA is now holding quarterly public events regarding the SJRWP. However, from working with the community on SJRWP last 5 years, I have concerns about the efficacy and efficiency of using an open house format as the sole method of disseminating information on May 25th. In short, I think you will end up with frustrated community members and agency/organization staff if we do not have brief presentation(s) that provide a status update of the cleanup and the attendees do not have the opportunity to hear Q&A all at the same time. I think it would be inefficient to have EPA and others who are exhibiting (Harris County, TDSHS, etc.) having to answer the same questions from community members over and over.

The presentations that Gary has given at the last two EPA public events were VERY helpful. Please do not stray from that format. It did help that there was a facilitator and ground rules. I think most folks will want to hear from EPA on the cleanup status, but perhaps Harris County, TDSHS or other agencies can give brief updates on their related work (water well sampling, seafood advisories) if warranted.

**I highly recommend that this event have a short presentation session to provide updates on the following items, and perhaps other items that members of the CAC think would be useful, followed by a structured Q&A session:**

- Cap inspection results
- Any follow up findings on the cause of the hole in the cap found in December, and how long it may have been there
- Water, sediment, biota sampling results
- Corps 3<sup>rd</sup> party review status and findings
- FS updates including any new clean up alternatives, e.g. alternatives with best available practices/BMPs that isolate the site from the river
- FS/proposed plan for cleanup/comment period timeline updates

I think the one-on-one can be very good as far as folks being able to get opportunity to follow up with EPA or other agency staff if they had additional questions or did not understand the answers that were given, but I think it would be inefficient as the primary source of info dissemination and will cause community frustration as mentioned above.

I imagine one item of which you are concerned is Q&A. I get very frustrated when people ask about non-relevant items, don't follow the ground rules, engage in inappropriate behavior and shouting, etc. but I still believe that Q&A has more upside than downside if properly facilitated. I prefer oral Q&A format, but if needed perhaps written questions and oral answers could suffice.

**If the public notice language now legally precludes you from doing formal presentations, then a structured Q&A session might reduce community frustration.**

**Finally, I think that our having a CAC meeting before May 25 would be very helpful** in sharing community concerns/ideas for the EPA public meeting/open house agenda/methodology. If that can't happen, I recommend that EPA solicit ideas and comments from all CAC members on meeting topics/methodology via email. All that said, I think a face-to-face CAC meeting even if it can't happen until the day of the event, is warranted.

Thanks-  
Scott

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\*\*\*\*\* ATTACHMENT REMOVED \*\*\*\*\*  
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This message contained an attachment which the administrator has caused to be removed.

\*\*\*\*\* ATTACHMENT REMOVED \*\*\*\*\*  
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Attachment name: [image001.jpg]  
Attachment type: [image/jpeg]